

In the Claims: ✓

Please cancel claims 1-21 and 25-27.

Please add new claims 28-35 as follows:

A²
--28. A method of controlling multiple applicators in a coating process, comprising the steps of:

defining a control ratio of atomization energy to coating flow rate for a coating process; and

controlling multiple applicators such that the applicators substantially maintain the control ratio during the coating process.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the applicators are bell applicators and the control ratio is defined as:

$$S \cdot V / CF$$

where S is the bell cup speed, V is the shaping air supplied, and CF is the coating flow rate.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the applicators are gun applicators and the control ratio is defined as:

$$AS \cdot FS / CF$$

where AS is atomization air supplied, FS is the fan air supplied, and CF is the coating flow rate.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the defining step is practiced by:

choosing applicator control parameters that provide a desired coating; and

utilizing the chosen control parameters to define the control ratio.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the choosing step is practiced by:

adjusting the control parameters to provide at least one of a selected coating droplet size, a selected distribution of coating droplet sizes, a desired droplet uniformity, or a visually acceptable coating.

33. The method of claim 28, including controlling the applicators to provide a droplet distribution with about 40% to about 70% of the droplets being about 15 microns to about 40 microns in size.

34. A method of controlling multiple bell applicators in a coating process, comprising the steps of:

choosing applicator control parameters to provide a desired coating;

defining a control ratio of atomization energy to coating flow rate based on the chosen applicator control parameters, wherein the control ratio is defined as:

$$S \cdot V / CF$$

where S is the bell cup speed, V is the shaping air supplied, and CF is the coating flow rate; and

adjusting the control parameters for the applicators to substantially maintain the defined control ratio during the coating process .

35. The method of claim 34, including controlling the applicators to provide a droplet distribution with about 40% to about 70% of the droplets being about 15 microns to about 40 microns in size.--